

A Futile Gesture

California's legislators will convene in Sacramento early in November to consider proposals to reapportion the state's congressional districts.

The Assemblymen and Senators are meeting under the duress of a court order — either they shift the boundaries on the basis of the 1960 census, or the court will do the shifting for them.

A reluctant legislature has set Nov. 6 as the beginning date for their deliberations.

Nobody expects any major shifts in the state's congressional alignments. Informed men in this area believe Torrance and the adjacent areas will be changed very little. Congressman Bell may give up some of his district near the Ventura County line, but will retain the Peninsula, west Torrance, the three beach cities which make up the South Bay, and his west Los Angeles area.

At the same time, Cecil King, dean of the California delegation, is expected to retain his strong Harbor and Wilmington areas.

It all seems like a futile gesture to many observers. The legislators, however, have no choice. The court has spoken.

Can Halloween Vie?

Halloween, already deteriorated from a grand festival of once-a-year ghouls and ghosts in wonderful home-made costumes to a somewhat mercenary trick-or-treat and a rather pallid exercise in international warfare. Now it faces the final blow.

With all the hippies wandering around in wild costumes, wilder live fright-wigs, beads and bells, ponchos and earrings, flowers in the hair and dirt on the feet, what chance do the old-fashioned spooks have?

Alongside the kooks the spooks fade in insignificance. Farewell, oh Halloween. The flower children have loved you to death.

Opinions of Others

We hear a lot about world "population explosion" but to us here in the relatively wide open spaces it doesn't mean so much. Recently, however, we scanned a census report that does put an exclamation point behind the phrase. World population is currently 3.5 billion persons, it stated, and it is increasing at the rate of two per cent per year. That means that world population is increasing at the rate of 70 million per year and that by the year 2,000, world population will be nearly double that of today. That's only 33 years away.—*Payette (Ida.) Independent-Enterprise.*

Do you ever have the feeling that this kooky old world is getting kookier? We buy things we don't need with money we don't have to impress people we don't like. And when we can't meet the payments, we merely arrange for one friendly, gigantic, impossible loan to get rid of the friendly, little, impossible loans.—*Sterling (Ill.) Gazette.*

Morning Report:

that the best brandy, perfume, and marijuana come from abroad. I guess that's why our Customs people picked up more than 28,000 pounds of marijuana last year from sneaky Americans who failed to declare it at our borders.

But despite this heroic effort on the frontiers, more and more citizens are getting the stuff. Presumably they are using the inferior domestic product — which grows wild almost everywhere. More than 500 pounds of green marijuana were picked up in Des Moines, fresh from the lush fields of Iowa.

To get the better foreign smoke, some people are saying we should legalize marijuana and they cite its use for thousands of years in the Middle East. To me, it's the best possible argument for Buy American.

Abe Mellinkoff

VOX POP!... ALSO MOM AND THE KIDS!



HERB CAEN SAYS:

'Playboy Now Does Job' Once Left to the Bible

The war in Vietnam is different from our other wars in many ways, including even the cliches of miraculous escape. We have at hand this odd exclusive from the perfumed offices of Playboy: "Sp/4 Donald Lasillo, badly injured by an enemy land mine, dragged himself back into the fire to help a wounded comrade. He was hit again and this time it would have been through his heart but for a copy of "Playboy" tucked inside his shirt." In our previous wars, it was always a Bible. Nevertheless, it's reassuring to know that certain of our dogs are still on the job. Hugh Hefner Lives!

Report From Our Man In San Francisco

Cory Gallery Nov. 3. He will sell it as one piece or in slices. Specify size. He provides the saw.

Brain Bogglers March On: Alan Jones caught this from the lips of CBS' Harry Reasoner during "Barry Goldwater's Arizona." "Arizona is a lot more like it is than it would be if it weren't for him." . . . Steve Blasberg found this bogger in a Philis Batelle column on rats: "They've started one out of every four fires of unknown origin" . . . And a boggie bagel to Geo. Umbenhour for this classified ad in the Redwood City (Calif.) Tribune: "White Oaks bargain. Distinctive exterior, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2-car garage, fine area. \$30,950. Should go for considerably less."

Another step ahead in the world of communications

A Letter . . . To My Son

By Tom Rische
High School Teacher and Youth Worker

Dear Bruce,
If you tried to trace your family tree back 2,000 years, to the time of Christ, there would be at least 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 names on it.
That's more than any one person ever could figure out in his lifetime, even if records are available, which they aren't.
The family historian has traced our ancestry back to 1590, when a group of Protestant carpenters were chased out of France to Germany during a religious war. The list includes old Jurgen Heinrich Rische, who had five wives, and some early Oklahoma Indian fighters. Sometimes, I'm curious to know what they were like.
But, unlike some people, I can't spend my time bragging about my relationship to some famous person, long dead. The chances are that if we could sort through our sextillion ancestors, there'd be a few kings,

counts, geniuses, and heroes, but there'd also be a larger number of pig keepers, scullery maids, court jesters, morons, cowards, and crackpots.
It's pretty obvious that you lack certain opportunities because your name is not Rockefeller. Family background and money help somewhat, but here in America, we believe that most men have opportunities to make of themselves whatever they can. I'm not sure that just anybody could be President, but the possibility is there. (No longer can a feeble-minded person become the head of a country, as in Medieval Europe, just because of his royal blood.)
We live longer today — and more comfortably — than most medieval kings. You have greater opportunities today than most of your trillions of ancestors ever dreamed of.
Hoping you use them,
YOUR DAD



CAPITOL NEWSMAKERS

State Prison Chief Says Everybody Is 'on Parole'

By EDWIN S. CAPPS
Capital News Service
SACRAMENTO — Everybody lives on a sort of parole, says R. K. Procnunier, state director of corrections. For the person who is not in prison and never has been in prison, the parole is merely being a law-abiding citizen. A person's conscience often serves as his parole officer. Of course, if a person breaks the law, this then amounts to a violation of his personal parole and he may be in trouble.

Procnunier, who was appointed director of corrections after serving in about every capacity in the department, as well as director in Utah for a short time, said he tries to explain parole this way to prisoners who are about to be released.

"Many of them are very afraid to go back outside and I try to explain that every person, including me, is under a sort of parole," Procnunier said. "And, of course, the prisoner who goes out on parole has a lot more services available to him than you or I would."
The department has completed about three years under a trial system under which caseloads for parole officers were cut drastically. Now is the time the department is going to have to prove it works.
A parole officer has an average load of 120 units. Parolees are evaluated and given points: a 4 is one who would be difficult to handle; 3 is one less likely to get into trouble; a 2 would be a man who would need little supervision and a 1 might be the man next door who shot his wife in an argument and was sent to prison for second degree murder.
Thus a parole officer conceivably could have 120 parolees under his supervision or he might have only 30. Most have a combination of types and have 40 or more parolees.
There presently are 5,200 parolees under this intensive supervision, and the

department will have to argue its case to the legislature this year to keep the program in operation. Procnunier said a report on the experience of the past three years will be prepared some time next month.

The director hopes it will show a success. To him, the success will be in whether

The Men in Action on the Sacramento Scene.

the parolees have committed new crimes. Preliminary figures, Procnunier said, show that the program has been very successful in reducing new crimes, even though a number of parolees are returned to the institutions for technical violations of parole.

Parole terms aren't nearly as severe as they used to be. The old ban on drinking doesn't apply unless that was the prisoner's former trouble.
"The parolee has to have the permission of the adult authority to marry and he can't buy anything under contract without the authority's permission," Procnunier said. "But a regular person can't borrow money or finance a car without some sort of permission — from the bank or the finance company."

The department of corrections is in the midst of a trend of receiving less prisoners for which there is no quick explanation. Even though the average stay of inmates is longer than it was a few years ago, the overall population is considerably less than had been projected for this time.

Procnunier said this could be because of high employment and a general prosperity. For one thing, there's been a big drop in the number of forgers being sent to prison — the percentage has dropped from 22 per cent of the total population to about 9 per cent.

Some of the reduction may be because more forgers are being given proba-

tion or county jail sentences, Procnunier said. So much is because a better economic situation is resulting in fewer forgeries.

Procnunier said he is very impressed with the way most judges are trying to handle cases nowadays.

"I'm amazed at the positive attitude of the judges," Procnunier said. "They are trying to cooperate in every way possible, to try to keep the people out of prisons if there are better ways to treat them locally."

"They send some to us because they feel we have better treatments for them," he said. "But there isn't the hostility that might have been there 25 years ago."

In any event, the department was able to close down one section at the institution at Soledad, involving space for about 600 inmates. The barracks building which formed the minimum security unit still are there and may have to be used again but there's considerable savings in the meantime. Some of this savings, in fact, has been used to continue the trial program of intensified parole treatment.

Procnunier said he feared if the department could not make its case for the lower caseloads for parole officers, the program might be set back many years.

The director was asked briefly about a recent disturbance at the California conservation center and one at San Quentin where three inmates were shot. He said the Susanville incident resulted because some poor food and some of the wrong people got onto the inmate councils. As a result, about 80 men were transferred from Susanville to San Quentin.

"Whenever one of these situations is permitted to arise, someone hasn't done his job," Procnunier said. "But as long as they're stopped quickly, there really hasn't been any problem or damage."

ROYCE BRIER

Custer's Last Stand Not One of Epic Proportions

A columnist noting a new history of the Korean War by General Ridgway, came across a passage in which Ridgway draws a parallel between General MacArthur and Custer at the Little Big Horn.

Ridgway succeeded MacArthur in Korea, and says in effect that he was pigheaded about the Yalu crossing where Red Chinese hordes joined the North Koreans. But MacArthur was not sacked for the Yalu crossing blunder, but for writing politically loaded letters home, which is considered bad form in the United States Constitution.

Anyway, Ridgway's analogy with Custer is possibly apt as to temperament, ego and military self-righteousness, but the analogy ends there. A better analogy in career might be Custer and General Braddock. The latter was out Indian hunting with a thousand Redcoats (1755), and had along a young Virginia militia colonel named George Washington, who advised him in-

dians dote on Redcoats from ambush. Braddock didn't believe it, and some of his command escaped, but not Braddock. Happily for us all, Washington escaped.

Now this boulder Custer is the only American military fellow ever to become a sort of hero-in-reverse because of a gruesome lithograph which decorated most of the saloons of the West after 1876.

He wore his hair long like a hippie, but he was hardly a flower child. He was a super-grandstander, and though personally brave he hadn't the sense to pound sand in a rat-hole, to coin a phrase. But he engaged the attention of Phil Sheridan, whom the late H. L. Mencken called "whiskey-soaked" with some reason. In the Civil War this didn't hurt him with Grant, who conveniently forgot his curious behavior at the Battle of Chickamauga, and pushed Sheridan, who pushed Custer.

So Custer became the

for a great victory, which might pitch him into a Presidential nomination in a coming convention. Sounded pretty funny, but things often sounded funny then, as they do today.

There is a television series on Custer's postwar career, and in it he's a bragging, insensate strutter, and the show is fairly accurate. Custer was an Indian-hater, a form of nineteenth century racism, and literate Red men have never since been slow to accuse him of Indian camp massacres of women and children.

So George Armstrong Custer went to his doom, guessing so wrong about Sitting Bull's strength that his command was wiped out to a man. The precious Sheridan was then big brass, a lieutenant colonel, and Grant was President. There is no record Grant ever called Sheridan in to explain what the hell happened, but then, the General never in his life was heard to utter a cussword.

Alan Grey Says . . .

Noon October twentieth . . . Was quite a noted day . . . For the number of people living . . . Within the U.S.A. . . . Two hundred million people . . . Is our total population . . . Which puts us number four in size . . . Of any other nation . . . There's still one major difference . . . That others do not share . . . We still can feed our people . . . And still have food to spare.

Quote

It is estimated that approximately 85 per cent of the Bay Bridge commuter traffic originates in the East Bay. I think it is both unfair and discriminatory to ask these bridge users to subsidize a facility that will benefit San Francisco and the entire bay area. — Assemblyman Robert W. Crown (D-Alameda), on rejection of a bill to increase the San Francisco Bay Bridge toll 10 cents to finance the Bay Area Rapid Transit District.

Opinions on Affairs of the World

"youngest" major general (brevet), and after the war reverted to lieutenant colonel.

In the war Custer was neither brilliant nor stupid — he was noisy. He took up Indians because it was the best way a late general could endure a colonelcy, and possibly recover some rank. He also saw it as political potential, and there was a yarn just before his disaster that he hungered